

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Claim 17 has been added. Claim 17 is supported by the specification, for example, page 19, lines 23-27. Claims 2 and 11 were previously canceled.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 3-10 and 12-17 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

**I. Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 1, 3-10 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0170126 to Mikoshiba et al. (“Mikoshiba”)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 recites a coloring composition comprising a dis-azo compound or poly-azo compound which contains two or more substituents having a pKa value in water of -10 to 5 and which has an oxidation potential more positive than 0.8 V (vs SCE), wherein the dis-azo compound or poly-azo compound is an azo compound represented by the following general formula (I):

(I)



wherein A, B, and C each independently represents an aromatic group which may be substituted or a heterocyclic group which may be substituted, A and C are monovalent groups and B is a divalent aromatic heterocyclic group directly bonded to the azo-nitrogen atoms.

Mikoshiba discloses a dye represented by formulae (I), (II) and (III). The groups in between the two azo groups in the formulae (I), (II) and (III) are naphthylene groups, which are different from an aromatic heterocyclic group, as recited in claim 1. For at least this reason, claim 1 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Mikoshiba.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Mikoshiba and thus the rejection should be withdrawn. Furthermore, claims 3-10 and 12-16 depend from claim 1, directly or indirectly, and thus are patentable over Mikoshiba at least by virtue of their dependency.

**II. New Claim**

Claim 17 depends from claim 1 and thus is patentable over Mikoshiba at least by virtue of its dependency.

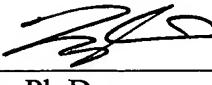
**III. Conclusion**

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 452-7932 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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